BOROUGH OF MALDON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

T.D. BLOTT.

B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

including the

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

RAYMOND A. HALLETT

M.R.San.I. M.S.I.A.

for the year

1954

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1954.

The Worshipful the Mayor

Councillor D.R. Cargill.

Chairman:	Alderman E.C.Dines, J.P.
Deputy Chairman:	Councillor D.C.Fenn.
Aldermen:	C.C.Cowell, W.Binder, G.W.Free,J.P.
Councillors:	A.G.Ralph. H.W.Jolly. F.W.Brewster.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH

Town Clerk and Solicitor:	K.C.Robertson.
Medical Officer of Health:	T.D.Blott, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector:	Raymond A. Hallett. M.R.SanI., M.S.I.A.

BOROUGH OF MALDON.

To the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Maldon.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1954.

Vital Statistics.

The Crude Birth Rate per thousand of the population during 1954 was 13.9 and the corrected Birth rate was 14.8 compared with 15.2 for England and Wales.

The Crude Death Rate per thousand of the population during 1954 was 13.1. This figure when multiplied by the Registrar's comparability factor of 0.75 gives a corrected Death Rate of 9.8 per thousand of the population. These figures are not comparable directly with those of 1953 because the figure for that year in-cluded certain deaths occurring at St. Peter's Hospital and for comparison I include the figure for 1953 - 1948.

	1953.	1952.	1951.	1950.	1949.	1948.
BIRTH RATE.	13.3	15.8	15.8	17.8	18.9	16.8
DEATH RATE.	24.2	14.7	14.2	12.1	12.7	12.6

These figures are gratifying in showing that the health and vigour of our population continues to be exellent and compares facourably with similar areas of the Country.

Infectious Diseases.

	1954	1953
Notifications.	113	267
Deaths.	NIL	NIL

The peculiar weather experienced throughout the year had its effect on the seasonal incidence of infectious disease within the Borough and diseases tended to be more prevalent later in the year. An outbreak of Infective Hepatitis (Jaundice), centred chiefly on th-e Heybridge Primary School demonstrated how difficult such an infection is to control and suggests that improved sanitary facilities in schools and public lavatories are an urgent need.

Food Poisoning.

The year has shown noteworthy progress by the shopkeepers in improving the quality of their wares by greater attention to refrigeration and protection from contamination. The fruits of continued health education would appear to be showing results in that retailers are finding that the public now require higher standards in food handling and tha-t good hygiene is now good business. A small outbreak of food poisoning was traced to the consumption of duck eggs on a farm, shwoing the danger of using these eggs without thorough cooking.

Maldon is still waiting for large extensions to its main drainage and the Swimming Pool on the Promenade presents a challenge which will have to be met since Maldon, with its large influx of sh-oppers from the surrounding countryside and of holiday makers during the Summer, in a sense is the trustee of the health of many time s its own population.

The fact that there is so little to report during the year is in no small measure due to the vigilance of your previous acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Joan Mackenzie, and to the indu stry of your Sanita ry Inspector, Mr. Hallett, who in spite of at times a total absence of Office Staff has nevertheless successfully dealt with th-e ever increasing amount of work which slum clearance and meat inspection has placed upon the Public Health Department.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T.D.Blott, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1953.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area:	Land (acres) as extended 1st April 1934	5946
	Inland Water.....	13
	Tidal Water.....	120
	Foreshore.....	566
	TOTAL	6645

Population	(Census 1931, Original Borough).....	6559
	(Census 1952, Extended Borough).....	9725
	(Estimated Midyear 1954).....	9750

Number of Inhabited Houses (End of 1954)..... 3138

Rateable Value.....£60,635

Sum represented by a penny rate..... £241

Social Conditions: The Chief industries of the Town are engineering, timber yards and flour milling. There is also a small amount of fishing and some agriculture.

Extracts from vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births	Legitimate.	133	76	57	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population, 13.9 (Comparability Factor 1.07
	Illegitimate.	3	-	3	
	Total.	136	76	60	
Still Births	Legitimate.	5	4	1	Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still 36.7
	Illegitimate.	-	-	-	
	Total.	5	4	1	
Deaths.		201	99	102	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated rsident population 13.1

Registrar General's Comparability Factor for Deaths	0.75
Corrected Death Rate	9.75 per 1,000
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.3 per 1,000

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :-

Number of Deaths under one year of age	1
All infants per 1,000 live births..	7.3
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	7.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

DEATHS CLASSIFIED BY AGE.

Age.	Number in District	Outward Tranfers.	Inward Transfers.	No. Applying to District.
Under 1 year	--	--	1	1
1 and under 2	--	--	--	--
2 " " 5	--	--	--	--
5 " " 15	--	--	--	--
15 " " 25	--	--	1	1
25 " " 35	3	1	1	3
35 " " 45	3	1	--	2
45 " " 55	5	2	2	5
55 " " 65	19	6	5	18
65 " " 75	52	20	2	34
75 and upwards.	119	67	12	64
TOTALS	201	97	24	128

DEATHS CLASSIFIED BY CAUSE AND SEX.

Cause of Death	Males.	Females.	Total.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	4	4	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	12	18
Coronary disease, angina	13	10	23
Leukemia	-	1	1
Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5
Other heart disease	19	20	39
Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Bronchitis	-	4	4
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	4	5
All other accidents	-	2	2
Suicide	2	-	2
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
Ulcer-stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Pregancy childbirth	-	1	1
TOTALS	61	67	128

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(i) Ambulance Facilities.

These are now provided by the County Council.

(ii) Hospitals.

(a) Infectious Diseases.

These are now transferred to the Chelmsford Isolation Hospital.

(b) Arrangements have been made with the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board for the treatment of patients suffering from small-pox.

(c) Specialist Clinics are now held weekly at St. Peter's Hospital, Maldon as follows:-

Monday: - Ante-Natal; Dental.

Tuesday: - Gynaecological.

Wednesday: - Physical Medicine.
Afternoon. - Chest Refill and Chest(Children).

Thursday: - Surgical.

Friday: - Chest Diseases.

X-Ray Clinics are also held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday by appointment.

(iii) Tuberculosis.

The North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board provide a number of Sanatoria throughout the County. Patients are dealt with at the Chest Clinic on Friday's at St. Peter's Hospital. Non Notified cases on Wednesday.

(iv) Maternity and Child Welfare.

The County Council is the responsible au thority for these services and full use can be made of the facilities offered through the County scheme. Adequate provision for hospital treatment and specialists services are similarly available where necessary.

Various Clinics in the above connection are provided at the Combined Treatment Centre, Wantz Chase, Maldon, where sessions are held as follows:-

Women's Welfare	5th Tuesday morning in each month at 10.a.m.
Child Welfare Clinic	Every Friday at 2.p.m. Doctor in attendance 1st, 3rd & 5th.
Ante Natal Clinic	3rd Tuesday in each month at 10.a.m.
Dental Clinic	By Appointment.
Orthopaedic Clinic	By Appointment.

Eye Clinic	By Appointment.
Speech Therapy	By Appointment.
Diptheria Immunisation	1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays in each month at 2 pm. Wantz Road Child Welfare Clinic. 2nd Tuesday in each month at 2.30 pm. Heybridge Clinic.

A Child Welfare Clinic is also held at Heybridge on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday in each month at 2 pm. (Doctor in attendance on 2nd Tuesday).

There is one private nursing home in the town, which is registered by the Essex County Council.

(v) School Children.

The County Council is the Education Authority for both secondary and elementary schools in the Borough. Minor ailments, Orthopaedic, After-Treatment, Dental and Eye Clinics for school children are arranged by the County Council at the Combined Treatment Centre, Wantz Chase, Maldon.

(vi) Venereal Diseases.

Facilities exist for diagnosis and treatment in Chelmsford, Colchester and Southend.

(vii) Physio-therapy.

There is one physio-therapist in the Borough who is registered by the Essex County Council, as follows:-

Mr. H.A.Whitehall, 1a, Butt Lane, Maldon.

(viii) Chiropody.

There are two Chiropodists in the Town who are registered by the Essex County Council, as follows:-

Miss L. Coon, Cromwell Cottage, Cromwell Hill, Maldon.

Mrs G. Campbell, 14, High Street, Maldon.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water.

Almost all the houses in the Borough are served by piped water service maintained by the Corporation. There are however, a considerable number of houses still supplied by a standpipe in the yard or garden, in some cases one draw off tap being shared by three or more houses.

There are two deep wells in the Borough which yield about 700,000 gallons per week. This quantity is not sufficient to meet the demand and on the average one and a quarter million gallons are purchased each week from the Southend Water Company. The maximum weekly consumption was 2,100,000 gallons.

for several years the annual report has included reference to the continued rise in the daily water consumption. This rise has continued throughout the year under review.

This factor needs very serious consideration by the Council, as the total available resources in the Area are not large enough to provide any additional supplies. More positive hopes are now entertained of an early commencement of part of the water carriage system of sewage disposal at Heybridge and when this is installed the demand for water will increase very considerably. The Council should give priority to schemes which will provide additional sources of good drinking water.

Any scheme of this nature must also include additional reservoir construction. The present storage capacity is quite inadequate for the present day demand and this is particularly noticeable at Heybridge, Heybridge Basin and Mill Beach in the summer months. A further water tower in the Heybridge area would do much to solve this problem and also a low level covered reservoir in Maldon would be of great value.

Frequent samples of water from both wells are submitted for Bacteriological and Chemical Analysis and also service mains have been sampled from time to time. Typical reports on these samples, which have always proved to be of highest purity are given below.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received 23.3.54 from the Borough of Maldon per E.C.C. labelled Draw off tap, head of well, Spital Road Waterworks, Maldon, Essex. Date 23.3.54. 9.0am.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION.

Appearance. Bright with very few mineral particles.

Colour.....	7	Turbidity less than	3
pH.....	8.2	Odour.....	Nil
Electric Conductivity.....	1800	Free Carbo Dioxide.....	Absent
Chlorine present as Chloride	360	Total Solids.....	1200
Hardness: Total.....40 Carbonate	40	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	385
Nitrate Nitrogen.....	0.0	Non-carbonate	0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen.....	0,64	Nitrite Nitrogen less than	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen.....	0.00	Oxygen Absorbed.....	0.50
		Residual Chlorine.....	Absent

Metals Iron: 0.04, Other metals absent.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is soft in character; it has its usual somewhat high content of mineral and saline constituents. Its organic quality is of a high standard. This result is indicative of a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes apart from the disadvantage of its content of fluorine being higher than is considered desirable.

6th April 1954.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Analysis of a sample of water received on 26.3.54 from the Borough of Maldon per E.C.C. labelled Draw off tap, head of well, Spital Road Waterworks, Maldon, Essex. Date 26.3.54. 9.30 am.

	1 day at 37° C.	2 days at 37° C.	3 days at 20° C
Number of Colonies developing on Agar	0 per ml.	0 per ml.	... per ml.

	Present in.	Absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes reaction	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (Type 1)	- ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction	... ml.	... ml.	

This result is indicative of a wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes, apart from the disadvantage of its content of fluorine being higher than is considered desirable.

6th April 1954.

2. Closet Accomodation.

Approximately 700 of the 3,138 inhabitated houses in the Borough are fitted with pail closets, another 130 with cesspool drainage and 16 with earth closets.

3. Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been found necessary for the prevention or treatment of blindness.

4. Tuberculosis - Mass Radiography.

There was no visit of this unit during the year.

New Cases of, and Mortality from Tuberculosis during 1954.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15- 25 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25- 35 "	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35- 45 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45- 55 "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55- 65 "	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	-

5. Infectious Diseases.

School Notifications of suspected Infectious Disease or of contacts are regularly received.

The table on the following page gives the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified:-

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1954.

Infectious Disease.	CASES NOTIFIED.														Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1 yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	4-5 yrs	5-10 yrs	10-15 yrs	15-20 yrs	20-35 yrs	35-45 yrs	45-65 yrs	65 & over	Age Not Known	At All ages.		
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Measles	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5		
Pnuemonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3		
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
Gastric Enteritis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	4		
Infective Hepatitis	-	1	2	5	3	40	19	3	10	5	2	2	-	92		

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Every Annual report is looked upon as a further mass of reading matter which is given scant attention nowadays, as it is commonplace to hear the remark that " I have no time to read everything that I have put in front of me".

This is probably true of this report, but I hope that at least a few will study it and find inspiration and some satisfaction from its contents. If nothing else, it gives a brief summary of the work done by the Health Department during 1954 and that is no small list of duties performed.

Work came thick and fast during the year, particularly during tha last four months, after the passing of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. The measure has stimulated housing duties of all kinds and although in practice it does not appear to be so helpful as it was represented to be before enactment, it has called for much attention.

The return of private slaughtering in July 1954 gave cause for much more work in connection with Meat Inspection. One slaughterhouse came into immediate use and the amount of slaughtering increased gradually as the months passed.

1954 is not a year when it is possible to say we progressed very far in the Health Department, but some improvements were effected. The setbacks and disappointments which mar every sphere of activity are the spurs to greater efforts in the future, to that extent 1955 will prove an energetic year.

Food Hygiene. This subject will undoubtedly rank high in the minds of all Public Health Officers for many years and at the present rate of progress of improvement, several years are going to pass by before conditions will satisfy us completely. Maldon is no exception to this state of affairs, although every year does see some progress.

One such item of progress was the installation by one Maldon Butcher of a Refrigerated display window in his shop in place of the normal type of window. This is a great step forward and allows the display of meat to be carried out in a completely hygienic manner. I hope it is the forerunner of such action by other food premises.

The sale of Ice Cream, soft drinks and tea and cakes at summer fetes and bazaars is a source of some concern.

Many such events do a large trade in the distribution of food and frequently the conditions of handling leave much to be desired. I have received helpful co-operation from most local organisations with regard to the sale of Ice Cream, and it can be said that in nearly all cases only pre-packed Ice Cream is now sold. Unfortunately the same cannot be said about other food-stuffs, as these are often exposed for long periods without any covering and the washing of cups etc., is generally very rudimentary.

"The Customer is always right" is fast becoming in to its own again and this will do much to improve standards.

Housing. Undoubtedly the most important aspect of my work during theyear under review. The normal routine was carried on during the early part of the year, but after September when the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 had come into operation the tempo of the work greatly increased.

Plans were formulated to make a survey to ascertain the number of unfit houses in the Borough and applications for "Certificates of Dis-repair" required many detailed inspections.

The year saw the first applications under the Housing Act 1949 for Improvement Grants and the scheme began to work smoothly. It is hoped that these applications will increase as every one approved means another house brought up to modern standards.

The Council had a very big building programme under progress during the year and the number of families re-housed was quite considerable. It was hoped that this effort would bring the end of the list of applicants well in sight, but the number of fresh applications for housing accomodation received during the year was over 100 and in consequence this hope has in some measure been dashed.

Administration.

Your Medical Officer of Health, Dr.T.D.Blott and I have worked in complete harmony throughout the year and I wish to record my appreciation to Dr. Blott for his friendly help and advice. The duties of the Public Health Department are such that teamwork is the only way to get them carried out effeciently, each member of the team undertaking his own particular duties and the whole making a completed task. This spirit exists in Maldon on every occasion and thus the good of the community is served.

I should also like to offer to the other Officers of the Council my thanks and appreciation for their help and friendly advice during the year. The end of the year brought Staff difficulties in my office as my General Clerk Miss M.L.Jopson resigned and took an appointment with a Commercial firm, where the salary was considerably higher. Miss. Jopson had proved so very satisfactory that her departure

was most unfortunate. This is one further example of the loss of good staff to industry due to the low level of salaries in Local Government. If this effecient young Clerk could have received an increase in her salary of say £20 per annum she would in all probability have remained in the Councils' employ. At the end of the year no permanent replacement had been obtained, in consequence the smooth running of the Health Department was disrupted.

Once again the Council appointed me as a delegate to the Annual Conference of the Sanitary Inspectors Association. I attended this Conference at Southport and appreciate very much the opportunity afforded to me of meeting my Colleagues from all parts of the Country and listening to very instructive papers and discussions on all aspects of Sanitary Administration.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. A. Hallett.

Borough Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL SANITATION. The detailed summary which will be found on page 23 sets out all the various inspections and visits made during the year.

The number of formal complaints made during the year was 174, an increase of 24 over the previous year. All these complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken to remedy the nuisances. These investigations required a total of 762 initial inspections and revisits, the third year in succession when the number has risen.

These figures when interpreted properly tell a story of the day to day supervision which is required in the Public Health Department. They are not spectacular nor very interesting to read, but they mean in actual work, un-inspiring but frequent visits to the same house or premises to be sure that the many requirements of the Public Health laws are being complied with in all respects. Much more work of this nature should be undertaken, for the routine detection of nuisances which go unnoticed unless someone makes a complaint. Lack of time and only one Sanitary Inspector make any improvement impossible.

On pages 24 and 25 will be found a record of the various repairs&improvements which have been effected during 1954. These figures show considerable increases under almost all headings and this is due to the increased complaints from tenants, particularly where rent increases became effective at the end of 1954.

East Coast Flood Disaster 1953. During the year a further 27 claims in respect of the above catastrophe were investigated. These were the stragglers and probably took a greater amount of time to complete than all the previous 320 claims dealt with during 1953.

Much coast protection work has been undertaken since the flooding and it is hoped that this will prevent any further flooding should similar climatic conditions recur.

Housing. The following figures show the trend of the average number of persons per house in the Borough over a period of years.

Year	Average Number of Persons per House.	
1901	4.28	
1911	4,35	Figures for years prior
1926	4.06	
1936	3.32	to 1934 refer to the
1946	3.29	
1951	3.20	unextended Borough.
1954	3.10	

In the report for 1953 I ventured to suggest that 1954 may see the beginning of a much greater activity in regard to improved housing conditions and the clearance of many unfit houses.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 certainly fulfilled this prognostication. The latter end of the year under review saw a great increase in housing work of all kinds. Much of this was brought about by the increases of rents permitted under the above Act. Many tenants were not satisfied that their houses were in all respects fit when asked to pay more rent and in consequence Twenty Nine applications were received for"Certificates of Dis-Repair". Upon inspection it was found that all these applications were justified and the necessary Certificates were issued.

In consequence very many detailed inspections of houses required and the service of many notices for the repairs which were found to be necessary. In certain instances the houses when inspected were found to be in such a bad state of repair that they will eventually need to be demolished as being totally unfit.

The future years will undoubtedly bring much more work in connection with Housing Improvement and Slum Clearance as one of the major tasks for 1955 is the formulation of a scheme to deal with all the unfit houses in the Borough as required by Section 1 of the Above Act.

The Building of new houses by the Council proceeded apace during the year and very many families have been housed in decent surroundings. This speedy building began to reduce the numbers of the waiting list quite appreciably, but unfortunately during the year a further 113 new applications were received. The first group of Single Persons Bungalows were put under construction in 1954 and these would prove very suitable in this Borough, as the proportion of elderly people living alone is very high and many of the tenants displaced from slum property will require accomodation of this kind.

Positive action in respect of several unfit houses was completed in 1954. One Clearance Order involving Four houses was confirmed and eight other houses were closed by the making of Demolition or Closing Orders. A number of other houses had already been surveyed at the end of the year and these will feature in subsequent reports.

The following tables summarize the position regarding action under the Housing Act:-

HOUSING ACTS. 1936 - 49. CLEARANCE AREAS.

Name of Area	Date of Order becoming Operative	Number of Houses Involved	Number of Houses Occupied	Number of Houses Vacant	Number of Houses Demolished
Spr-ing Lane & Hall Road (Heybridge) Clearance Order, 1949.	September 1950.	8	-	-	8
Wantz Road (Maldon) Clearance Order, 1951.	December 1951.	4	1	3	-
Heybridge Street Clearance Order, 1953.	March 1954	4	2	2	-

(Excluding the Almshouses Numbered 178-186, High Street).

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

Name of Property	Date of Order becoming Operative	Number of Houses Involved	Number of Houses Occupied	Number of Houses Vacant	Number of Houses Demolished	Undertakings accepted.
55, Church Street, Maldon.	15.10.50.	1.	-	1.	-	-
15, The Street, Heybridge.	-	1.	-	1.	-	Not to relet for human habitation Feb. 1951.
1 & 4, The Street, Heybridge.	-	2.	-	2.	-	Not to relet for human habitation Jan. 1951.
5, Cromwell Lane, Maldon.	-	1.	1.	-	-	Demolition Order. 24.6.52.
6, Fullbridge, Maldon.	-	1.	-	-	1	Demolition Order. 21.4.53.
11, Heybridge Street, Heybridge.	June 1954	1.	-	1.	-	-
2, Saltcote Mill Cotts, Heybridge.	June 1954	1.	-	1.	-	-
1, Pump Row, Heybridge.	-	1.	-	1.	-	Not to relet for human habitation. Dec. 1954

Name of Property	Date of Order becoming Operative	Number of Houses Involved	Number of Houses Occupied	Number of Houses Vacant	Number of Houses Demolished	Undertakings Accepted.
31, Butt Lane, Maldon.	Jan. 1955	1.	-	1.	-	-
4 & 6 North Street Maldon.	Feb. 1955	2.	-	1.	-	-
67, High Street, Maldon.	Feb. 1955	1.	-	1.	-	-
106, High Street, Maldon.	Jan. 1955	1.	-	1.	-	-

<u>PUBLIC HEALTH.</u> The position as regards Caravan Camping sites is very much the same as previously. As foreshadowed in my last report the only one remaining Camp with pail closets has now provided a water carriage system of drainage and the Camp has been brought up to a good standard.

All the Camp Owners endeavour to keep their camps in good order and are always ready to respond to suggestions for their improvement.

Several Caravans in the Borough are still used for permanent habitation, but these are slowly decreasing and it is to be hoped that this trend will continue.

<u>Smoke Abatement.</u> There is no serious smoke nuisance in the Borough, although I had cause to draw the attention of one firm to the condition of their factory chimney which was causing annoyance in this respect. Remedial measures have been put in hand.

<u>Eradication of Bed Bugs.</u> No cases of infestation were discovered during the year.

Control of Other Insect Pests. Flies, Wasps, beetles and ants have caused some nuisance, but these have not been serious and have soon responded to treatment with one of the many modern insecticides.

Rodent Control. This work has continued to demand time and energy. The number of complaints received during the year was 71, 24 of which related to business premises and 47 to private dwellings. Only one part-time operative is employed and treatments are carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Public Cleansing. The collection of house refuse and night soil and the sweeping of the streets is the responsibility of the Borough Engineer. A weekly collection of house refuse is maintained and a twice weekly collection of night soil from some 700 houses fitted with soil closets is provided.

The vehicles used for this service are:-

Bedford "Eagle" 12/20 cubic yard rear loader.

Bedford combined Night Soil and Gully Emptier.

Morris Electric 15/20 cwt. Street Orderly Truck.

At times it is necessary to use an open lorry for refuse collection in order to maintain a weekly service and this practice is unsatisfactory. With the increase in the number of houses in the Borough it may soon become necessary to provide an additional Refuse collecting vehicle.

The Refuse tip has been reasonably well maintained but it does give rise to some nuisance by reason of its close proximity to the Recreation Ground and Promenade.

Control of Houseboats. The administration of the control of Houseboats under the provisions of the Essex County Council Act 1952 necessitated 60 inspections during the year. This work is one more duty which has fallen on the shoulders of the Sanitary Inspector during the past five years and as many of these boats are in remote parts of the district, this work takes up a considerable amount of time.

No serious problems arose under this heading, but much negotiation has been necessary to resolve some minor points of the licence requirements. The end of the year saw most of these difficulties overcome.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES.

Inspections.		Notices.				
	No.	Informal	Formal	Total Complied with.	Outstanding at end of year Informal	Outstanding at end of year Formal
Miscellaneous Inspections	156	-	-	-	-	-
Houses Inspected re: overcrowding.....	13	-	-	-	-	-
re: Dirty conditions & Vermin....	27	6	-	6	-	-
re: Structural defects and nuisances.....	190	54	-	46	8	-
re: inspections in connection with above..	359	-	-	-	-	-
House drainage (inc. nuisances from drains and ditches.....	47	4	-	4	-	-
Water Supply (sampling and inspections).....	45	-	-	-	-	-
Food Shops (incl. ice cream premises, cow sheds, dairies, canteens etc.).....	542	27	-	24	3	-
Licenced Premises.....	23	2	-	2	-	-
Shop Inspections.....	87	14	-	14	-	-
Offensive Accnlths.....	5	5	-	5	-	-
Rats, Mice & Insect Pests.....	44	4	-	4	-	-
Camping Grounds and Moveable Dwellings.....	42	7	-	7	-	-
Disinfections.....	6	-	-	-	-	-
Infectious Disease Inquiries.....	4	-	-	-	-	-
Swimming Pool (Sampling and Inspections).....	24	-	-	-	-	-
Nuisances from keeping poultry animals etc....	9	3	-	3	-	-
The Market.....	39	-	-	-	-	-
Complaints re: dangerous structures, defective sewers, refuse collection, etc. dealt with departmentally	38	-	-	-	-	-
Houseboats Inspected.....	60	14	-	8	6	-
Flood Claims Investigated	27	-	-	-	-	-
Slaughterhouse Inspections	118	5	-	2	3	-
	1905	145	-	125	20	-

DETAILS OF REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED.

Roof-s repaired or renewed	36
Chimney stacks repaired or renewed	6
Gutters, rainwater pipes, etc., repaired or renewed	16
External walls repaired or renewed	4
Window and door arches repaired	2
External window and door sills repaired or renewed	6
Damp-proof course provided or repaired	12
Rendering to external walls	4
Sub-floor ventilation provided	4
Sub-floor ventilation repaired or renewed	2
Yard or passage surfaces paved or repaired	6
Boundary walls and fences repaired or renewed	1
Refuse receptacle provided	8
Ceiling plaster repaired	14
Ceilings cleansed and redecorated	6
Waterproofing of internal walls	10
Wall-plaster repaired	18
Walls cleansed and redecorated	4
Floors repaired or renewed	12
Windows repaired or renewed	16
Window fasteners renewed	3
Sash cords renewed	12
Doors repaired or renewed	6
Door frames repaired or renewed	9
Door furniture renewed	2
Firegrates/ranges provided or renewed	16
Hearths repaired or renewed	1
Stairs repaired or renewed	7
Ventilated food-store provided	6
Food-store repaired or improved	2
Washing copper repaired or renewed	1
Washing accomodation provided	4
Water service repaired or renewed	6
Water supply provided	2
Drains tested	2
Drains cleansed	5
Drains repaired or reconstructed	2
Soil pipe and vent shaft repaired	4
Inspection chamber provided or repaired	3
Fresh Air Inlet repaired	1
New gullies provided	2
Repairs to benching or fenders to gullies	4
New I.C. covers fitted	1
New W.C's provided complete	2
New W.C's pans provided	4
W.C. cistern repaired or renewed	2
W.C. compartment repaired	8
W.C. compartment rebuilt	3
W.C. compartment cleansed	6

New sink provided	2
New sink waste and trap provided	4
Offensive accumulations removed	10
Nuisances from keeping animals abated	6
Smoke nuisances abated	2
Miscellaneous nuisances abated..	24
Sanitary accomodation provided to camping sites	2
Refuse receptacles provided to camping sites	12

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Clean Food Campaign. The routine inspection and supervision of all food premises has continued throughout the year, but due to several other factors the number of inspections has fallen by almost one hundred. This is a great pity as only by constant and frequent visits can these premises be kept up to a high standard.

This is the second year running when a drop in the number of inspections has been noted. In these days of a food hygiene concious public this state of affairs cannot be regarded lightly.

This fall in the number of inspections is due to increased work in connection with Meat Inspection since the return of private slaughtering and Housing administration.

If private slaughtering continues at its present rate and other duties are equally pressing this decline in work in connection with Food Hygiene will be more evident. The answer can only be the Appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector. All the work required cannot be properly undertaken by one Sanitary Inspector and some aspect must suffer under present arrangements.

The year saw some further small improvements in the general handling and sale of food, but undoubtedly progress has slowed down as compared with the two previous years.

Inspite of all the difficulties mentioned above, efforts have been made to continue the policy of improving various types of business premises as a whole and the following is a brief summary of the position:-

(a) Licenced Premises. A few minor improvements have been effected, but many of these premises still have old-fashioned sanitary arrangements which should be improved. This matter will be kept in mind for the future.

(b) Butchers Premises. All Maldon butchers are very co-operative in the attitude to clean food and try their best to maintain a high standard. They are not all blameless but the perfect world is impossible to attain.

Two noteworthy events during the year are the installation by one firm of a Refrigerated display window to their shop with all its advantages and by another of the construction of a centralised Sausage and pie-making factory with all the most modern hygienic machinery and methods.

(c) Cafe Premises. There is nothing very spectacular to report under this heading. Some minor improvements have been undertaken, but much more remains to be done to modernise many of these buildings.

General Food Premises.

(a) The following details are given of the varying types of food premises in the Borough and their respective numbers. For a population of just under 10,000 this appears to be quite a lengthy list but it should be borne in mind that Maldon is a shopping centre for a very large rural area.

Bakers	7
Butchers	11
Catering Premises and Canteens	41
Confectioners	5
Fish Shops	10
Greengrocers..	14
Grocers and General Stores	40
Public Houses and Hotels	34
Miscellaneous	6

(b) The following premises, which are included in the above total, come within the provisions of section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act,1938.

Manufacturers of Sausages and Preserved meats etc.	9

(c) Whenever visits are made to these premises no opportunity is lost of furthering clean food education. Inspections are concentrated on the premises where either food is manufactured or unwrapped food is broken down from bulk. Very many of the general stores only sell wrapped goods and in consequence the need for constant vigilance is not so essential.

It will be seen from the figures contained in paragraph (a) above that there are no less than 168 food premises of all types in the Borough. In my opinion the absolute minimum number of visits which should be paid to food premises during the year is 4 i.e. one visit each 3 months. In order to do this it is essential to visit at least 2 premises every working day, and at the present time this is not a practical possibility. This state of affairs is one which is to be regretted and there is only one satisfactory remedy .. for it.

(d) The majority of food which is condemned as being unfit is either the tinned or bottled variety and these are disposed of by burial at the Council's refuse tip under the supervision of Council staff. Any small quantities of fresh meat are burnt in a portable incinerator.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION. The number of premises used as Cowsheds and Dairies within the area of the Local Authority, as follows:-

Wholesale Producers	13
Retail Purveyors	3
Accredited Producers..	8
Pasteurised Milk Dealers..	3

Frequent inspections are made to all premises retailing milk and these have been kept in a satisfactory condition. The County Health Inspectors take regular samples of milk for biological and bacteriological examination.

ICE CREAM. In accordance with the provision of the Essex County Council Act, 1933 persons manufacturing or selling ice cream in the Borough have been registered by the Council. The present Register shows that there are

Manufacturers and Vendors	3
Vendors only	41

One manufacturer employs the Holder process of Pasteurisation and the other use the Complete Cold Mix method.

During the year 53 inspections and visits were made to all types of Ice Cream premises and these visits were the occasion for propaganda on clean handling and processing. A continued policy of sampling was carried out and this effort does make the retailers realise that the Council regard the sale of Ice Cream in a proper manner as being one of importance.

The number of samples taken was 45, a drop on the previous year. These were all submitted to the laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue Reduction test and a summary of the results is given below (Ministry of Health Provisional Grading).

Grade 1	30
Grade 11	7
Grade 111	5
Grade 1v	3

These results show that almost 67 per cent of the samples were placed in Grade 1 and if Grades 1 and 11 are added together the total is 82 per cent.

The total result is not as good as in 1953. This may be due in some degree to the fall in the number of samples taken affecting the relative percentages. Two of the Grade 1V samples were from Maldon manufacturers and following their submission advice was given to them on improvements in their technique.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. Private slaughtering - its re-introduction and rapid increase is undoubtedly the biggest suprise and difficulty in the Public Health world during 1954. Ever since the commencement of the late war and the centralisation of slaughtering under the Ministry of Food I do not think anyone would ever have speculated that private slaughtering would be allowed again.

In Maldon this change of policy resulted in two slaughter-houses being licenced, one of which came into operation on 5th July 1954. During the first few months the rate of kill was fairly steady but as the winter advanced a marked increase was noted, particularly of pigs. The very end of the year saw most of this increase as at that time the slaughterhouse in question became a "Deadweight Certification Centre".

The following table gives the number of animals killed and the amount of meat condemned as unfit:-

Cattle	96	1 whole carcase condemned with Bovine Tuberculosis and parts of 11 other carcases.
Sheep	56	
Pigs	160	
Calves	22	

Total weight of meat condemned 1 ton and 26 lbs.

This work required no less than 118 visits to the slaughterhouse and I am proud to say that 100 per cent inspection was maintained throughout the year. Much of this work was done in after duty hours, some of it on Sundays and Bank holidays.

Tinned foods do not give very much trouble, the traders are very helpful and draw my attention to any consignments which they think may be unfit and in this way an efficient control is maintained. A summary of the principle items of food found to be unfit and condemned follows:-

Peanut Butter	4 lbs
Cheddar Cheese..	18½ lbs
Margarine	21 lbs
Plaice	2 stones.
Semolina	15 lbs
Smoked Fillets..	1 stone.
Tinned Cooked Ham	129 lbs
Tinned Sheep Tongue ..	12 ozs
Tinned Minced Beef.. ..	13 lbs
Tinned Danish Luncheon Meat	43 lbs
Tinned Cooked Ox Tongue	6 lbs
Tinned Corned Beef.. ..	24 lbs
Beef Sausages	36 lbs

409 Various tins and Bottles.

REGISTRATION OF FOOD HAWKERS. The administration of the Essex County Council Act 1952 in connection with the above was continued. The number of hawkers registered under this Act was 11 during the year.

This number is unlikely to change very much in the future as most of those registered are permanently engaged in this manner.

ADULTERATION. The Essex County Council are responsible for the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 in respect of food adulteration. Close contact is maintained with the County Council staff and this results in satisfactory supervision.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises (1)	M/C line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sec.1,2,3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority.	1	8	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	58	38	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers premises).	3	--	--	-	-
TOTAL		66	42	-	

lases in which defects were found.

Particulars	M/C Line No.	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of Cases in which prosecution were instituted.
		Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
'ant of Cleanliness (S.I.)	4	3	3	-	1	-
;anitary Conveniences (S.7)						
a) Insufficient	9	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective.	10	2	2	-	1	-
c) not seperate for sexes.	7	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)						
		5	5	-	2	-

Outwork.

Nature of Work	M/C Line No.	Section 110 Number of Outworkers in August list reqd by Sect. 110(L)(C)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Wearing Apparel Making etc.	13	42	-	-	-	-	-
		42	-	-	-	-	-